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Minister for Business, Industry and Resources
Minister for Skills and Jobs
Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy

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Ms Kristie Johnston MP
Independent Member for Clark
Email: haprocedure@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Ms Johnston

Thank you for your constituent question asked on 18 June 2026 in Parliament regarding TasTAFE Laboratory Technician Courses.

I appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective and to outline the importance of laboratory capability to pathology services, water and soil testing and school science teaching.

The Certificate III in Laboratory Skills and the Certificate IV in Laboratory Techniques remain available to Tasmanian students and are subsidised by the Tasmanian Government through the Apprentice and Trainee Training Fund.

These qualifications are currently available to Tasmanians through three training providers: ABC Training and Consulting, Melbourne Tech Institute and Labtech Training.

The Diploma of Laboratory Technology is also available through ABC Training & Consulting and Labtech Training. Training is delivered through customised, workplace-based delivery modes with practical learning and assessment occurring in Tasmania and online.

These training providers have already been delivering Laboratory Technician courses in Tasmania for over 5 years. In fact, I am advised that in 2024 and 2025 more Tasmanian learners enrolled in the Certificate IV qualification in Tasmania through private RTOs than through TasTAFE.

Further adjustments have also been made to existing funding programs to ensure coverage for pre-employment training. I have been advised by Skills Tasmania that at least one RTO is intending to start offering laboratory technology courses to Tasmanian jobseekers this year.

This approach, where Government works with private providers to ensure training is available in priority skill areas, is consistent with arrangements in several other critical sectors including seafood and transport.

Based on an assessment of current and projected demand, Skills Tasmania has advised that the training options now available through private registered training organisations are able to meet current industry need and this situation will continue to be monitored.

The Tasmanian Government is focused on ensuring our training system delivers skills for jobs, with investment directed toward areas of strongest demand and employment outcomes. These decisions allow TasTAFE to focus its resources on priority training areas where student demand and workforce need are greatest.

Medical Laboratory Technicians play a critical role in the pathology workforce. I can advise that the Department of Health is actively collaborating with the University of Tasmania to support and maintain additional local training pathways for the profession.

The Government will continue to monitor demand for laboratory skills and ensure Tasmanians have access to training pathways aligned with industry needs.

Thank you for raising these matters in Parliament, I trust this information is helpful.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Felix Ellis'.

Felix Ellis MP

Minister for Skills and Jobs

3/8/2026